

House  
REPUBLICAN  
Conference

# FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

J.C. Watts, Jr.  
Chairman  
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 9:30 a.m. for Morning Hour and  
11:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 3557—Presenting the Congressional Gold Medal to John Cardinal  
O'Connor**

**H.R. 3642—Presenting the Congressional Gold Medal to Charles Schulz**

**H.R. 149—Omnibus Parks Technical Corrections Act (Considering Senate  
Amendments)**

**H.R. 3201—Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Study Act**

**H.R. 2086—Networking and Information Technology Research and  
Development Act**

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## **Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider the following four bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**H.R. 3557** authorizes the president to present, on behalf of Congress, a gold medal to Cardinal O'Connor in recognition of his contributions to the nation. The bill authorizes up to \$30,000 to cover the cost of providing the medal. The actual amount spent is recouped by the U.S. Mint through the sale of authentic bronze reproductions of the medal. H.R. 3557, introduced by Mr. Fossella, was not considered by a House committee.

**H.R. 3642** authorizes the president to present, on behalf of Congress, a gold medal to Charles Schulz to acknowledge his lasting artistic contributions to the nation and the world. Schulz, 77, died in his sleep on February 13 after a battle with colon cancer just as his final strip was on its way to doorsteps across America. For nearly 50 years, Schulz drew and wrote every one of Peanuts' 18,000-plus strips. Starring

a gang of innocent yet neurotic children and a beguiling beagle, Peanuts quickly became a part of American pop culture, bringing to life the characters' distinct personalities, hopes, fears, and foibles.

Charles Monroe Schulz was born Nov. 26, 1922, in Minneapolis and grew up in St. Paul. Schulz's only cartooning education was through art correspondence courses. In 1948 he launched his first feature, *Li'l Folks*. Renamed "Peanuts"—a title Schulz said he never liked—the strip made its debut on October 2, 1950, in seven papers. It would ultimately appear in 2,600 newspapers in 75 countries and 21 languages, reaching an estimated audience of 355 million. Schulz won the Reuben Award, the cartoon world's highest award, from the National Cartoonists Society in 1955 and 1964. His last strip, appearing in February 13 Sunday editions, showed Snoopy at his typewriter and other Peanuts regulars along with a "Dear Friends" letter thanking his readers for their support. The measure was introduced by Mr. Thompson (CA) *et al.* and was not considered by a House committee.

**H.R. 149**, as amended by the Senate, makes numerous technical amendments to certain statutes affecting public lands. Most of these amendments correct spelling and punctuation errors or make other non-substantive changes to the original laws. Specifically, the measure makes technical corrections to the following statutes: (1) 1996 Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act (*P.L. 104-333*); (2) 1998 Arches National Park Expansion Act (*P.L. 105-329*); (3) 1998 Dutch John Federal Property Disposition and Assistance Act (*P.L. 105-326*); (4) 1998 Oregon Public Lands Transfer and Protection Act (*P.L. 105-321*); and (5) 1998 Automobile National Heritage Area Act (*P.L. 105-355*). CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The House originally passed H.R. 149 by voice vote on February 23, 1999. The Senate made minor amendments to the measure and passed it by unanimous consent on November 22, 1999.

**H.R. 3201** authorizes the Interior Secretary to study the feasibility of designating the Carter G. Woodson Home as a National Historic Site and identifying alternatives for managing and protecting the home. The secretary must report his findings to Congress within 18 months after funds for the study are made available. H.R. 3201, introduced by Ms. Norton, was not considered by a House committee.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #3, February 11, 2000.

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## **H.R. 2086—Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider H.R. 2086 after it finishes considering scheduled suspensions. On February 8, the Rules Committee granted an open rule that provides one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Science Committee. The rule makes in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text. It also strikes a provision in the bill that permanently reauthorizes the research and development tax credit (which was extended for five years last year). In addition, it makes in order only those amendments that have been pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 2086 authorizes \$4.8 billion over FYs 2000-2004 for networking and information technology research and development at the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Energy Department (DOE), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The funding for the six agencies will go toward the High-Performance Computing and Communication (HPCC) program, the Next Generation Internet program (NGI; which is authorized only for FY 2000-2001), and other information technology programs.

For the NSF (which receives roughly 60 percent of the funding authorized by the bill) H.R. 2086 authorizes a total of \$3 billion, including:

- \* \$130 million for grants of up to \$1 million for high-end computing, software, and networking research;
- \* \$220 million for information technology research centers;
- \* \$385 million for terascale computing;
- \* \$95 million for universities to establish internship programs for research at private companies;
- \* \$56 million for educational technology research; and
- \* \$50 million for the NGI program.

In addition, the bill authorizes:

- \* \$602.2 million for the DOE (including \$30 million for the NGI program);
- \* \$1 billion for NASA (including \$20 million for the NGI program);
- \* \$73 million for NIST (including \$11 million for the NGI program);
- \* \$71.7 million for NOAA; and
- \* \$22.3 million for the EPA.

Finally, the bill authorizes a series of studies and reports, including one on Internet privacy (to be conducted by the National Research Council), the availability of encryption technologies in foreign countries (to be conducted by the NSF), and the impact of information technology research funded by certain appropriations bills (to be conducted by the Comptroller General). CBO estimates that enactment will result in additional discretionary spending of \$3.7 billion over FYs 2000-2004. The measure was introduced by Mr. Sensenbrenner *et al.* and was reported by the Science Committee by a vote of 41-1 on September 9, 1999.

**Views:** The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. An official Clinton Administration view was unavailable at press time.

**Amendments:** At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendments to H.R. 2086:

**Mr. Andrews** may offer an amendment (#6) to stipulate that “developing optical technology for storing, carrying, disseminating, and securing information” be given priority when the NSF awards information technology research grants. (The bill outlines other activities that must be given priority when the NSF awards such grants.) **Contact: x5-6501**

**Mr. Andrews** may offer an amendment (#7) to stipulate that improving the “quality and accessibility of healthcare via telemedicine” be given priority when the NSF awards information technology research grants. **Contact: x5-6501**

**Mr. Andrews** may offer an amendment (#8) to authorize the Laboratory for Telecommunication Science to conduct research into preventing and recovering from Internet “denial of service attacks.” **Contact: x5-6501**

**Mr. Capuano** may offer an amendment (#1) to eliminate a provision in the bill that requires the Comptroller General to report to Congress on the impact of information technology research funded by certain FY 2000 appropriations bills. The sponsor of the amendment contends that since FY 2000 funding levels have already been determined, the study is unnecessary. **Staff Contact: Michelle Mancini, x5-5111**

**Mr. Capuano** may offer an amendment (#3) to authorize \$492.3 million for FY 2000 (compared to \$439 million in the bill) and \$2.8 billion (compared to \$2.5 billion in the bill, not including \$385 million for terascale computing) for FYs 2000-2004 for the NSF. In turn, the amendment reduces the bill’s authorization for the Department of Energy by 50 percent (approximately \$300 million over FYs 2000-2004). The amendment’s sponsor argues that the NSF is most able to manage information technology research funds, as it already administers several programs in cooperation with universities and the private sector. **Michelle Mancini, x5-5111**

**Mr. Capuano** may offer an amendment (#9) to authorize a total of \$3.6 billion for the NSF for FYs 2000-2004 (compared to approximately \$2.5 billion in the bill, not including \$385 million for terascale computing). In turn, the amendment reduces the bill’s authorization for the Department of Energy from \$602.2 million to \$303.6 million (a \$298.6 million reduction). **Staff Contact: Michelle Mancini, x5-5111**

**Mr. Hall (TX)** may offer an amendment (#10) to increase the bill’s total authorization from \$4.8 billion to \$5.6 billion for FYs 2000-2004. It increases the total NSF authorization from \$2.5 billion (not including \$385 million for terascale computing) to \$3.3 billion for FYs 2000-2004. In addition, it increases the DOE authorization from \$602.2 million to \$607 million over the same period.

Specifically, the amendment increases (1) the authorization for NSF long-term information technology research from \$1.8 billion to \$2.2 billion over the FY 2000-2004 period; (2) the number of large research grants the NSF may award from 20 to 25 in FYs 2000-2001 and from 30 to 35 in FYs 2002-2004; and (3) the authorization for NSF information technology research centers from \$220 million to \$300 million. **Staff Contact: Jim Wilson, x5-2634**

**Mr. Hoeffel** may offer an amendment (#2 or #11) to require the National Research Council to conduct a study on the (1) barriers to information technology currently faced by the elderly and disabled; (2) research and development that is needed to remove these barriers; and (3) necessary changes to current law and

federal regulation that will improve access to information technology. The first amendment (#2) authorizes \$900,000 for the study, which must be completed within two years of enactment; the second amendment (#11) authorizes only \$700,000. **Staff Contact: Don Grace, x5-6111**

**Mrs. Jackson-Lee** may offer an amendment (#12) to require the Comptroller General to report to Congress within one year of enactment on how the bill affects lower income families, minorities, and women. **Staff Contact: Alfred Campos, x5-3816**

**Mrs. Jackson-Lee** may offer an amendment (#13) to require the NSF Director to report to Congress, within one year of enactment, on the economic and educational benefits conferred on lower income families, minorities, and women by federal programs providing access to the Internet. **Staff Contact: Alfred Campos, x5-3816**

**Mr. Larson** may offer an amendment (#4) to require the NSF and other federal agencies to report to Congress on (1) the most effective and economical means of providing all public elementary and secondary schools and libraries with high-speed, large bandwidth capacity access to the Internet; (2) the effect that specific or regional circumstances may have on the appropriateness of using different methods and technologies to achieve the goal of providing Internet access to schools and libraries; and (3) the best methods—from a school administrator’s perspective and from a technical standpoint—of integrating technology and providing Internet access to public schools and libraries. The study must be completed within one year of enactment. **Staff Contact: Javier Gonzalez, x5-2265**

**Mrs. Morella** may offer an amendment (#14) to authorize \$223 million for FY 2000, \$233 million for FY 2001, \$242 million for FY 2002, and \$250 million for FYs 2003-2004 for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The amendment requires the NIH to use the funding to conduct basic and applied research to advance and disseminate computational techniques and software tools to support biomedical and behavioral research. **Staff Contact: Ben Wu, x5-0278**

**Mr. Smith (MI)** may offer an amendment (#5) to allow the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to participate in or support the research programs authorized by the bill. The amendment’s sponsor argues that the USGS has a stake in the type of research authorized by the bill, and that it has valuable technical expertise to offer in cooperation with other federal agencies already conducting IT research. **Staff Contact: Peter Harsha, x5-7858**

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #3, February 11, 2000.

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